

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 11, 2007. 1, 8 and 10 are pending in the application, all of which are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 7 and 10 were objected to for various informalities. Claims 2 to 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In regard to Claims 2, 6 and 7, these claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the corresponding objections and rejections.

In regard to Claim 10, without conceding the correctness of the objection, Claim 10 has been amended as recommended by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection.

Claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Published Appln. No. 2004/0021905 (Holmstead). Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Holmstead in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,923,013 (Suzuki). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns managing a print job that has image data to be repeatedly processed. In processing a print job requiring printing a single image repeatedly, only the image data included in the previous print job remains stored in memory in order to decrease the number of accesses to image data in a server. Therefore, unnecessary image data is not stored in a storage medium and as a result, this prevents space on the storage medium from being

occupied unnecessarily. Thus, the load on a network and network communication costs for printing the image repeatedly are reduced.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus that acquires a plurality of image data from a server device via a network and control a printer to print a print job generated from the plurality of image data. The apparatus includes list creation means for creating a first list of identification information for the image data to be acquired from the server device; image storage means for storing image data acquired from the server device; list storage memory means for storing a second list of identification information for the image data stored in the image data storage means; comparison means for comparing the first list and the second list; deletion means for deleting the image data that is not included in the first list but in the second list, based on a result of comparing by the comparison means; and updating means for updating the second list on the first list, after acquiring from the server device the image data that is not included in the second list but in the first list.

In contrast, Holmstead discloses checking whether or not an instructed print job is already stored in a local computer, and, if not, downloading the print job from a remote site. However, in Holmstead, every downloaded print job remains stored in memory or is temporarily held within a specific term. (See Holmstead, element 414 in Fig. 4 and element 814 in Fig. 8). Therefore, an apparatus in accordance with Holmstead has to store a lot of unnecessary print jobs when printing a number of print jobs. Furthermore, Suzuki merely discloses deleting a content on response to an instruction of an operator and fails to disclose the features of the present invention.

Therefore, Applicant submits that Holmstead and Suzuki, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the present invention. Specifically, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest an information processing apparatus that acquires a plurality of image data from a server device via a network and control a printer to print a print job generated from the plurality of image data wherein the apparatus includes list creation means for creating a first list of identification information for the image data to be acquired from the server device, comparison means for comparing the first list and the second list, deletion means for deleting the image data that is not included in the first list but in the second list, based on a result of comparing by the comparison means, and updating means for updating the second list on the first list, after acquiring from the server device the image data that is not included in the second list but in the first list.

In light of the deficiencies of Holmstead and Suzuki as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 8 and 10 are directed to a computer-readable storage medium and a method, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 8 and 10 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

The previous claim count totaled 10 (20 paid-for), with 3 independent claims.

The present amendment cancels an independent claim (and 6 dependent claims) but amends a dependent claim so as to become an independent claim, bringing the total claim count to 3, all of which are independent.

Accordingly, no claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-3939.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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